



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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JULIAN CELEBRATES AS VOLCAN MOUNTAIN PRESERVE RECOVERS FROM 2003 CEDAR FIRE

Nature Hikes Let Public Experience Dramatic Regrowth In Once-Charred Areas

Julian, CA— Six months after the Cedar Fire roared through the greater Julian area, County Chairwoman Dianne Jacob and outdoor enthusiasts welcomed visitors back to Volcan Mountain Open Space Preserve and two popular trails in nearby William Heise County Park this afternoon.

The reopening celebration will continue this weekend. The County is offering ranger-led nature hikes through areas that have dramatically recovered from the fire. The hikes offer visitors a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to see plants that only germinate when touched off by wildfire.

"The reopening of these cherished open spaces is another positive sign that the recovery process continues for people in the Julian area," said Chairwoman Jacob, who represents the Second Supervisorial District, which was hard hit by the Cedar fire. "I'm thrilled that residents can once again enjoy the County's majestic Backcountry."

The County has secured more than \$1.2 million in grants to help clean and restore parks damaged by the fires. In addition, AmeriCorps crews, with members from as far away as Mississippi and New York, have been working to help restore the trails and the preserve.

Kurt Dalton, a member of the Boy Scouts of America from Julian, took on the restoration of the trails in Heise Park in order to achieve his Eagle Scout rank. Dalton led the Pledge of Allegiance to kick off the reopening ceremony this afternoon.

William Heise County Park is considered by many to be the most beautiful of all County parks. Its more than 900 acres include forests of oak, pine and cedar. Its peaceful meadows provide an undisturbed setting for miles of scenic hiking and horse trails.

Ranger-led nature hikes will take place on Saturday, May 1 and Sunday, May 2 at William Heise County Park and Volcan Mountain Open Space Preserve. To participate in the William Heise one-hour hikes, meet at campsite #86 at 10 a.m. or 3 p.m. To participate in the Volcan Mountain Open Space Preserve four-hour (approximately 7 mile) hikes, meet at the Farmer's Road trailhead located north of Wynola Road at 9 a.m.

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